Michael F. Easley
Governor

State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**   Contact: Reid Hartzoge
Date: May 21, 2003   Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY CALLS FOR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EDUCATION
Highlights Cisco Networking Academy

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley spoke today at Southeast Raleigh High School's Cisco Networking Academy highlighting the need for innovative approaches in high school education to make students ready for the jobs of the 21st century.

"I congratulate Cisco for connecting students to the workforce, helping them build marketable skills, and teaching them the relevance of high school as it relates to the working world and higher education," said Easley. "I want to know that when a student walks off the stage with a high school diploma that it means something."

Easley cited the Cisco Networking Academy program as an example of the type of curriculum that makes students job ready. As part of the Networking Academy Program students learn network trouble-shooting and Internet technology skills, as well as important problem-solving, communications, and teamwork skills that prepare them for careers in the real world. North Carolina ranks among the top 10 states in the number of Academies, with 3,400 students enrolled in 167 programs in high schools, community colleges, and vocational schools in 72 of 100 North Carolina counties.

"The Networking Academy program in North Carolina has grown from great partnerships, like the ones we have fostered in with the Department of Public Instruction and the Community College system," commented Woody Sessoms, Cisco Area Vice President for the Mid Atlantic Region. "Cisco's 2700 employees in North Carolina are proud to support the schools and education institutions that are delivering the Networking Academy curriculum."

Link to the Cisco Networking Academy Program http://cisco.netacad.net/public/academy/.

For photos of the event contact the Governor's Press Office at 919-733-5612 or download them from the Governor's website at www.governor.state.nc.us

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